

**Introduced by Senator Alquist**February 17, 2006

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An act to add Section 33444.7 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to redevelopment.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1329, as introduced, Alquist. Redevelopment: supermarkets.

The Community Redevelopment Law authorizes the establishment of redevelopment agencies in communities in order to address the effects of blight, as defined, in those communities and requires those agencies to prepare, or cause to be prepared, and approve a redevelopment plan for each project area. Existing law authorizes an agency to establish a program under which it loans funds to owners or tenants for the purpose of rehabilitating commercial buildings or structures within the project area.

This bill would authorize an agency to establish a program to award planning grants and other financial incentives to large supermarket chains, independent grocers, small markets, and ethnic grocers to assist with predevelopment activities, feasibility studies, land and building acquisition, construction, machinery and equipment purchases, and working capital for the placement or enhancement of supermarkets in underserved sectors located within a project area.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares as  
2     follows:

1 (1) The state has the second highest rate of overweight and  
2 low-income children in the nation.

3 (2) Obesity costs the state an estimated \$21.7 billion a year in  
4 medical costs and lost productivity. Medical care costs associated  
5 with obesity are greater than those associated with both smoking  
6 and problem drinking.

7 (3) While individuals make choices about what they eat, these  
8 choices are affected by the availability of food in their  
9 environment.

10 (4) Many studies indicate that low-income communities have  
11 fewer supermarkets than higher income communities.

12 (5) Supermarkets offer a greater variety of healthy foods at a  
13 more affordable price than other types of food outlets.

14 (6) Supermarkets are an important part of communities and  
15 generate jobs, put money back into the local economy, and  
16 encourage the establishment of other small and large businesses.

17 (7) Increasing access to supermarkets is an important strategy  
18 for improving the nutritional health and economic vitality of  
19 low-income communities.

20 (b) Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to allow  
21 redevelopment agencies to encourage the placement and  
22 enhancement of supermarkets in underserved areas by making  
23 planning grants and other financial incentives available to  
24 supermarkets.

25 SEC. 2. Section 33444.7 is added to the Health and Safety  
26 Code, to read:

27 33444.7. An agency may establish a program to award  
28 planning grants and other financial incentives to large  
29 supermarket chains, independent grocers, small markets, and  
30 ethnic grocers to assist with predevelopment activities, feasibility  
31 studies, land and building acquisition, construction, machinery  
32 and equipment purchases, and working capital for the placement  
33 or enhancement of supermarkets in underserved sectors located  
34 within a project area.